



INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Seitholo restores dignity of a disabled young woman with a disability-friendly sanitation facility in Sannieshof, Tswaing

26 March 2026

Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister, Mr Sello Seitholo has restored dignity of Annah Lekgetho, a 20-year-old young woman living with disabilities in Phelindaba section, Ward 10, in Sannieshof, under Tswaing Local Municipality, when he handed over a disability-friendly onsite toilet to her family.

Ms Lekgetho has been sharing a family toilet facility that was not disability-friendly all her life and this made her life and that of her family that cared for her more challenging and impaired on her dignity.

The predicament was uncovered by Deputy Minister Seitholo during his oversight visit to Tswaing in December during the National Sanitation Month, to assess the state of the Sannieshof Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) and some of the households that were severely affected by sewer spillages resultant of the malfunctioning plant.

Deputy Minister Seitholo said a lack of a decent, disability-friendly toilet highlights some of the daily challenges faced by vulnerable members of the community regarding sanitation services. He further said the situation requires an urgent need for intervention to protect the dignity and well-being of the people, especially those living with disabilities.

Deputy Minister Seitholo also emphasised that the need for a decent and proper toilet is an initiative guided by government's constitutional responsibility to uphold human dignity and basic rights.

"Access to proper sanitation is not a privilege, it is a constitutional right. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa affirms every person's right to dignity, equality, and a safe and healthy environment. As government, we could not leave this family behind," said Seitholo.

To address the need, the DWS partnered with a private sanitation company, AmaLooLoo, to provide and install a specialised onsite toilet to the disabled young adult.

The facility is designed to accommodate Annah Lekgetho's mobility needs and includes a supportive toilet seat and an indoor shower for ease of use. It is also designed to utilise rain-water for most of its operation, promoting sustainability while improving the household's quality of life.





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The Deputy Minister was accompanied by the Acting Mayor of Tswaing Local Municipality, Cllr. Nkagisang Molehabangwe, who echoed the Deputy Minister's sentiments and highlighted the importance of partnerships to improve service delivery and responding to community needs.

In closing, the Deputy Minister has expressed hope that the initiative would inspire stronger collaboration between national, provincial, and local government, together with private sector partners, to accelerate access to basic services and improve the lives of vulnerable citizens.

Katlego maponya

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